

My trip to Europe with D4K was amazing. I feel the experience was great and I will never forget it because being able to see what dressage is like in other countries is an experience in itself. At the European Pony Championship the riders and horses were disciplined and fun to watch and it made me want to bring that level of accuracy and riding back to my pony. Just thinking about being able to go to Carl Hester's and Phoebe Peters' barn was so exciting. Not only the dressage but the scenery was like nothing else. It was all so historic and well cared for. We also visited Windsor Castle and Gloucester Cathedral. When we went to Carl Hester's everyone on the bus was so excited and overwhelmed. We got to see some of Carl's students ride their young horses and they were very beautiful and elegant. We were very lucky because we got to see Charlotte and Valegro ride and I was screaming inside. We were told that they normally don't do that only for special events. Even though Valegro is retired he and Charlotte looked beautiful as always. Valegro is the sweetest horse ever. When Charlotte would ride by us he would always turn his head and look at us. He definitely knew what was happening. When we would take pictures it was like he was posing. After Carl's we went to Phoebe Peter's and she rode for us. It was so great to be able to see such an accurate and beautiful rider. She rode the FEI Pony team test for us and there obviously was no judge but it definitely was at least an 80%. She told us Lucie was not a fancy pony but the harmony and connection they presented to the judges helped them earn high scores. It inspired me to take that accurate riding to Nationals at Lamplight with my Pony, Otinio, when I got home. I am so glad I got to meet so many down to earth top riders. We also met Emma Blundell at Mount St Johns breeding facility. It was an honor to hear about how her breeding program produces some of the top dressage horses in the world. Without D4K I would not have been able to attend this trip. Not only have they done that for me but Lendon and her wonderful program TEAM has taught me so much over the years. Not only has she helped improve my riding but her TEAM program has helped me learn so many things like braiding and how to wrap legs correctly and proper etiquette when riding in other clinics. I am forever grateful. I have no idea how Lendon does what she does and I don't think anyone else could do it better.